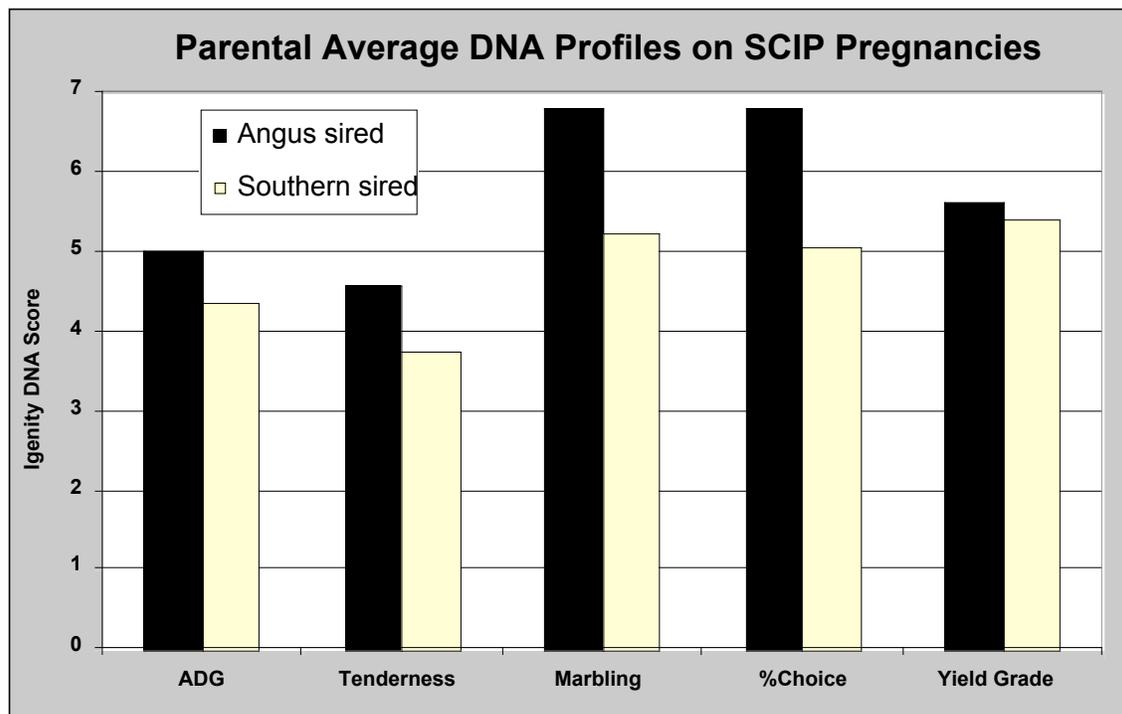


Southern Carcass Improvement Project Progressing 2010-born calves eagerly awaited at Gardiner Angus Ranch

ASHLAND, KANSAS, DECEMBER 11, 2009—Gardiner Angus Ranch has confirmed 64 pregnancies in recipient cows carrying embryo-transfer calves that are part of the Southern Carcass Improvement Project (SCIP). These pregnancies represent 10 different southern-origin dams and 9 different sires (6 Southern and 3 Angus). Southern sires include one each from the Brahman, Braford, Red Brangus, Santa Gertrudis, Senepol, and Simbrah breeds. “We are making good progress on this important genetic verification project and look forward to getting calves on the ground next spring,” says Mark Gardiner, Gardiner Angus Ranch. “The first group of calves will be born in April 2010, and we have made plans to produce another set of research calves in 2011 to increase the size of comparative groups in the overall trial.”

Igenity® DNA profiles on the parents of the SCIP pregnancies depict important differences between the Angus x Southern versus the Southern x Southern calves, as illustrated in the chart below. Parental-average Igenity® DNA scores are higher (more favorable) in all major trait categories for the Angus x Southern calves. Marbling and %Choice scores are much higher, which should yield a 10% to 20% advantage in Choice-grading carcasses when this group of research cattle is harvested in 2011. Also of interest, the difference in Average Daily Gain (ADG) DNA scores should translate to faster gain rates and heavier weaning and finished weights on the Angus-sired cattle.



“While SCIP is primarily focused on improving carcass traits and end product value, the Angus x Southern cattle are expected to perform better and grow faster during all phases of their productive lives, especially from weaning to harvest,” Gardiner explains. “Heavier pay weights are something all cattlemen seek, and we think the Angus x Southern cattle will have a measurable advantage in pounds produced.”

Additional Angus x Southern and Southern x Southern embryos have already been collected and frozen for implantation into recipient cows in 2010. Some additional collections will take place during the early months next year. Gardiner Angus Ranch plans to implant more than 100 SCIP embryos next spring.

Gardiner Angus Ranch, in collaboration with Kansas State University and Virginia Tech, launched SCIP in the spring of 2009 to determine how much carcass improvement can be made in one generation, using high carcass value Angus bulls on typical cows found in the Southern U.S. SCIP addresses the beef industry's long-standing need for higher quality grades and better overall carcass traits in Southern U.S. packing plants. Gardiner Angus Ranch is a family-owned Angus ranching operation located near Ashland, Kansas. Gardiner Angus is dedicated to the production of quality beef from gate to plate. Gardiners use their experience in beef cattle breeding, with state-of-the-art technology and data management, to produce Angus cattle that make documented contributions to the beef industry. The Gardiner operation registers more than 2,000 head of Angus cattle each year through the American Angus Association and encompasses more than 40,000 acres in southwest Kansas. The ranch is a founding member of U.S. Premium Beef, LLC.